

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Poland**

REPORT

SUBJECT **Personalities and Activities of the
Press and Information Department of
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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1. The following individuals held the positions indicated at the Press and Information Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in mid-1957:

a. Poliszczuk (fnu), Director of the Department, is a veteran career diplomat who has served abroad; later he was, for many years, deputy to his predecessor, Menda (fnu). He is directly subordinate to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Marian Naszkowski.

b. Kowalikowa (fnu), Deputy to Director Poliszczuk

c. Maria Mizielinska, head of the Exhibitions Section of the Press and Information Department, was employed for some time at the Polish consulate in The Hague

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1. The Press and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is directed in all its activities, and particularly in its personnel policy, by the Foreign Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. One of the principal functions of the Press and Information Department is to appoint and supervise the cultural and press attaches to Polish diplomatic representations abroad. In 1955 an extensive personnel reorganization was carried out for the purpose of replacing inefficient veteran officials in this sphere with young, vigorous intellectuals or outstanding representatives of Polish journalism. A nine-month course of instruction

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was organized for the preparation of such candidates for diplomatic appointments. Recruited by the Central Committee's Foreign Department from Warsaw and provincial towns, the candidates were required to have a command of several languages and experience in cultural work. A considerable number of those selected were graduates of the Social Science Institute of the Central Committee.

2. Another important field of activity of the Press and Information Department is cultural exchange with foreign countries, which entails: the export of Polish publications; financing of propaganda films; arranging for Polish exhibitions abroad and foreign exhibitions held in Poland; and supplying printed and photographic material for Polish information centers and diplomatic representations abroad. The Department cooperates closely with the appropriate divisions of the Ministry of Culture and Art in planning exchange visits for foreign intellectuals and artists. The Department accomplishes its tasks through a variety of means. For example, most of the publications used by the Department are not issued by the Ministry, but are specially ordered from appropriate publishing houses to fit the purposes of the Department. Photographic material for show cases abroad are supplied by the CAF (Centralna Agencja Fotograficzna; Central Photographic Agency), and exhibitions are prepared by the Art Department of the

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Ministry of Culture and Art. The transportation and installation of the exhibits are carried out by the Exhibitions and Fairs Enterprise. Since 1954 the main effort in the cultural field has been directed toward the West; Soviet Bloc countries were ignored unless one of them made a specific, urgent request.

3. In the second half of 1956 a conflict arose between East Germany and the Polish authorities over an exhibition of modern Polish painting. The affair started with the Warsaw Festival and the famous exhibition at the Arsenal, where young painters showed their latest works. A party of German youth proposed that some of the paintings should be shown in Berlin where, they claimed, this sort of modernistic style was not tolerated. After prolonged negotiations the exhibition was included in the cultural exchange plan with East Germany. The moment the pictures were ready for dispatch, however, the Germans and the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art tried to cancel the project. Many discussions were held at the highest level, but in the end the exhibition, accompanied by a number of young Polish artists, departed for Berlin. There the artists were ridiculed and molested, and were refused any official assistance in organizing the exhibition. The East German press either made fun of, or ignored the pictures

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